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## Tregaron a Dark Horse For Russian Embassy

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Tregaron, the once lavish Northwest Washington estate of the late Joseph E. Davies, is still in the running as a site for the new Russian embassy-chancery complex, a high State Department official said yesterday.

While the Mt. Alto hospital grounds on Wisconsin Avenue have been definitely offered to the Soviets in exchange for a new American Embassy site in Moscow, Tregaron "may still be in the cards," the official said.

The Russians have expressed an interest in the old Davies estate although they are considering Mt. Alto as well. The State Department, however, would

prefer that the Soviets settle on the old hospital area.

The reason, State officials admit, is Rep. John J. Rooney, D-N.Y., the congressional watchdog on the department's spending.

"He feels the way Fulbright did about living next to the French," the official said. He was referring to the legislation Sen. J. William Fulbright, sponsored to keep chanceries out of residential Washington neighborhoods. The Arkansas senator sponsored the bill in 1964 when it looked like the French chancery might settle in his neighborhood.

Rooney, who lives in the Tregaron neighborhood, admitted last week he doesn't want the Russians to be his neighbors.

"They let property values run down. They don't put curtains on their windows," he said.

"I don't want cars and drunks around at all hours," he said, after pointing out that one of the businesses of embassies is to throw parties.

Negotiations between Washington and Moscow for chancery locations in the two countries have apparently reached a peak. Following talks at the low diplomatic level for over a year, they are now being conducted at the highest level. Secretary Rusk and Foreign Secretary Gromyko discussed chanceries, for example, at a New York meeting last week.

Both countries share the same problem — staffs too long for their quarters. The problem in settling the matter is that each nation wants to make sure the other nation isn't getting more than the other.

Besides Rooney, State Department officials have been reluctant to offer Tregaron because they are afraid Washington citizens would raise too much fuss.

This apparently is not a problem now, since last Thursday the Cleveland Park Citizens Association voted to let the Russians in their Tregaron neighborhood.

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